Council Proceedings.

Council Chamber, January 15th, 1883.

The new Board of Aldermen met in the Council Chamber yesterday at noon according to the statute. There were in attendance:—His Worship Mayor Meredith and Aldermen Birrell, Labatt. Hunt, Hyman, O'Mara, Cowan, Skinner, Stringer, Browne, Boyd, Becher and Moore.

The City Clerk after having received the necessary oaths of qualification, called the new Council to order, and read the returns of the late municipal elections, which have been previously published in these columns.

THE INAUGURAL.

His Worship the Mayor, in assuming the chair for the second term, hoped that the members chosen as Aldermen by the citizens would transact the business to be brought before them in a business-like manner, and that in doing so as few speeches as possible would be the rule. During last year a bitter feeling cropped up between members at times, which hindered business materially. He trusted that there would be no display of that character in 1883, but that all would work energetically and honestly for the best interests of the city. He regretted personally that a number of gentlemen who had offered for the position of Alderman had not been returned, but the electors were the best qualified to judge, and had sent men to legislate for them in whom they had the fullest confidence. Many of the defeated candidates had done good service to the city, and were worthy of any honor their constituents could bestow upon them, but the reduction in the number of wards necessitated a corresponding reduction in the representation at the Council, and consequently the will of the people had to be accepted in this, as in many other matters, as final. He urged the members to practice the strictest possible economy, so that the expenditures might be brought as nearly as possible within the revenue. He believed a large reduction could be made in the expenditures of the Board of Works, and that at least $15,000 could be saved from this source over that of last year. If improvements were found actually necessary, it would be well to bring in vogue the Local Improvement Act, and let those who desired the improvements pay for them. Another important matter which would call for their attention was the assessment of the city. While he had no complaints to make against the gentlemen who had held the position of Assessors, he believed that, with the assistance of the Court of Revision and the Finance Committee, fully $1,000,000 could be added to the assessment of the city. With an amount such as stated added, the Council might be able to bring the rate down considerably lower than it has been for some years past. He suggested the appointment of a Special Committee to bring in report regarding the reorganization of the city offices, so that a proper system might be introduced, and money, if possible, saved thereby. He believed that the efficiency of several officers would be secured by more systematic work. The work of the Tax Collectors and the Relief Officer might be harmonized and saving effected thereby. He trusted, in conclusion, that the members would unite in advancing, as far as in them lay, the interests of the city, and that no trouble would arise in the successful carrying out of their intentions. (Applause.)

A COMPLIMENT.

Ald. Hyman at this juncture offered the congratulations of the Council of 1883 to His Worship on the occasion of his re-election by acclamation, which testified that he had done his work to their satisfaction, and he might add, to the members of the Council of 1882. He could assure him of the good-will and respect of the present Council, and hoped that the year upon which they had entered might be even more pleasant, if possible, than that which had passed. (Applause.)

The Mayor—I am extremely gratified to you all for the handsome compliment paid.

The minutes of the previous meetings of Council were then read and confirmed.

AUDITORS.

Applications were read from Messrs.

John Overell, R. D. Millar, A. Dale and Alex. Gunn for the position of Auditor.

The Mayor named Mr. Geo. F. Jewell as his Auditor for 1883, prefacing the appointment with the remark that he had great pleasure in offering that gentleman, who had conducted the re-audit so satisfactorily, the responsible position.

Balloting was then commenced for the office of auditor. The first ballot resulted in favor of Mr. Robert D. Millar, who received seven votes to three for Mr. Overell, two for Mr. Dale and one for Mr. Gunn. The latter's name was dropped.

The second ballot resulted in five votes each being cast for Messrs. Overell and Millar, and two for Mr. Dale. Mr. Dale's name was dropped, and

The third ballot taken. It resulted thus:—

Millar	8
Overell	5

The by-law ratifying the appointment was reserved until the evening session.

THE STRIKING COMMITTEE.

Ald. Hyman moved, seconded by Ald. Stringer, that Messrs. Birrell, Hyman, Skinner and Becher be the committee to strike the Standing Committees. Carried.

Ald. Becher moved, seconded by Ald. Boyd, that the Striking Committee name the Court of Revision and Board of Health at the same time as the other committees. Carried.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

By Ald. Birrell—That a Special Committee be appointed for the purpose of revising the by-law governing the municipal officers and offices; also to report on the advisability of any changes being made in the mode of the collection of taxes or any of the other city officers; and that this committee shall have power to examine any of the employes of this city in regard to any matters relating to their duties.

By Ald. Hyman—That the fees from the City Weigh Scales be sold by tender.

By Ald. Hunt—That the Fish Stalls be advertised for rent by auction on the 27th, the lease to date from Feb. 1st next, for one year; and that the by-law regarding appointment of officers by ballot be repeoled.

By Ald. Becher—The passage of a bylaw enacting that lands in the city used as parks, paddocks, lawns and gardens shall be assessed in the same way as other property.

AUDITORS' SALARIES.

Ald. Cowan moved, seconded by Ald Boyd, that the matter of the Auditors' salaries be referred to No. 1 Committee. Carried.

Council adjourned until 7.30 p. m.

THE NIGHT SESSION.

At 7:30 the Council resumed, all the members present.

COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Applications from R. M. McElheran, Joseph M. Wilson, G. E. Evans, J. J. Welstead, W. Horner, Samuel Pocock, W. A. Grosley, John Ferns, Adam Wheaton, Arch. McPhail, R. Seccombe, R. J. Webb, W. Gilmore, John Isaac, John Morgan, W. O'Brien, John Kincade and Henry Mercer, for the position of Weigh Scales Clerk, were read and referred to No. 3 Committee.

Petitions from Mrs. Jennet McInnes, Mrs. Nichol and Robert Coote, for remission of taxes, were referred to No. 1.

From R. McMurchy, for use of City Hall for holding the annual ball of the City Fire Brigade. Granted.

From W. R. Meredith—Bills respecting the London Junction Railway and the City Gas Companies. No. 1 and No. 3.

An account from Donald McPhie & Co., plumbing, $11.45, was referred to No. 2.

The petition of Mr. Essery and others in reference to a free library was referred to No. 1.

AUDITORS.

A by-law for the appointment of City Auditors was read three times and passed.

REPORTS.

Ald. Becher reported from the Committee to strike Standing Committees as follows:—

No. 1 Committee—Ald. Labatt, Hyman, Becher and Skinner.

No. 2—Ald. Birrell, Browne, O'Meara, Boyd.

No. 3—Ald, Hunt, Cowan, Stringer, and Moore.

Court of Revision—Ald. Birrell, Hyman, Becher, Labatt and Moore.

Board of Health—His Worship the Mayor, Ald. Browne, Hunt and Labatt, the Chief of Police, the Hospital Surgeon and the Health Inspector.

The report was taken up clause by clause.

First three clauses were adopted.

Ald. Becher moved the adoption of the fourth clause.

Ald. Boyd moved in amendment, seconded by Ald. Hunt, that Ald. Birrell's name be struck from the Court of Revision and that Ald. Skinner's name be placed thereon. Carried.

On the last clause Ald. Hunt moved in amendment, seconded by Ald. Boyd, that Ald. Hunt's name be struck off the Board of Health, and Ald. Cowan's substituted. Carried.

Ald. Labatt moved, seconded by Ald. Birrell, that the name of Ald. Boyd be substituted for that of the mover. Carried.

A by-law was introduced and passed confirming the appointment of the Court of Revision.

A by-law confirming the selection of members of the Board of Health was read.

Ald. Boyd, moved in amendment, seconded by Ald. Hunt, that the Board consist of members of the City Council only. Lost.

Yeas—Aldermen Labatt, Hunt, O'Meara, Browne, Stringer and Boyd—6.

Nays—Aldermen Birrell, Hyman, Cowan, Skinner, Moore, Becher—6.

His Worship voted nay, and the by-law was read a second time.

On the third reading of the by-law, Ald. Boyd moved, seconded by Ald. Hyman, that Ald. Birrell, Cowan, Browne and Boyd compose the Board of Health.

The amendment was lost, and the by-law was read a third time and passed.

WEIGH SCALES.

Ald. Cowan moved, seconded by Ald. Skinner, that the office of weigh scales clerk having become vacant by the death of Mr. Winnett, the matter be referred to No. 3 Committee with power to call for tenders, the highest or any tender not necessarily accepted unless otherwise satisfactory, and report at the next meeting of the Council.

Ruled out of order.

CHAIRMEN CHOSEN.

The members of the different committees then retired to choose their chairmen, and soon afterwards returned. Nos. 1 and 2 reported that Ald. Hyman had been chosen chairman of the former and Ald. Browne of the latter.

No. 3 Committee was unable to agree on a chairman, Aldermen Hunt and Cowan having been proposed.

A vote was then taken, and Ald. Hunt was declared elected Chairman of No. 3 Committee.

HOSPITAL.

Ald. Moore moved, seconded by Ald. Browne, that the present staff at the City Hospital be re-engaged.

The motion was carried, and the Council adjourned for one week.